

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

UNCLAS STATE 208056

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR, CY

SUBJECT:PRESS SPOKEMAN'S REMARKS ON CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
ACTION ON TURKISH EMBARGO

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF THAT PORTION OF AUGUST 16 STATE
DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING WHICH RELATES TO CONFERENCE COM-
MITTEE REPORT ON EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ASSISTANCE.

BEGIN TEXT: I HAVE ONE LITTLE STATEMENT.

THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES THE ACTIONS, WITH RESPECT TO TURKEY,
GREECE AND CYPRUS, TAKEN BY THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON
SECURITY ASSISTANCE. THE LIFTING OF THE TURKISH ARMS EM-
BARGO, AS APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS, WILL ELIMINATE AN IM-
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PEDIMENT TO IMPROVED U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE NATIONS OF THE
REGION, AND WILL STRENGTHEN THE SOUTHERN FLANK OF NATO.
THAT IS A STATEMENT OF WELCOME.

Q: MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE LANGUAGE OF THEIR CONFERENCE
REPORT IS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS TO FIRST CERTIFY THAT
TURKEY IS MAKING A GOOD FAITH EFFORT.

A: THAT IS CORRECT.

Q: IS THE PRESIDENT READY TO CERTIFY THAT, BASED ON THE EFFORTS THE TURKS HAVE MADE SO FAR?

A: I THINK THAT, ONE, OF COURSE YOU HAVE TO FIRST PASS THE ASSISTANCE BILL. CONGRESS STILL HAS TO DO THAT, WHICH WE EXPECT TO TAKE PLACE IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. OBVIOUSLY WE HOPE THAT THAT WILL COME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THEN THE PRESIDENT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION. THAT AWAITS BOTH THE PASSAGE, AND AT THE TIME OF THE PASSAGE, I THINK YOU COULD ASK A QUESTION AGAIN.

Q: DOES THE GOVERNMENT NOW THINK THAT TURKEY IS MAKING EFFORTS?

A: WE HAVE SPOKEN ON THE SUBJECT BEFORE AND HAVE NOTED THAT EFFORTS HAVE BEEN MADE. I'M NOT GOING TO TRY TO ANTICIPATE FOR YOU WHAT HAPPENS IN SEPTEMBER. WE HAVE NOTED IN THE PAST, AND HAVE MADE ARGUMENT FOR CONGRESS, AND YOU KNOW PERFECTLY WELL THE ARGUMENTS WE HAVE MADE UP THERE. THERE'S NO NEED TO REPEAT THEM. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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